

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 18 as indicated below.

1. (Amended) An improved roof truss comprising a bottom chord, a top chord and at least two intermediate members creating a triangular shape with one of the top or bottom chords, wherein the improvement comprises:
 - a) a bottom plate disposed beneath and substantially parallel to the bottom chord; and
 - b) means for attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord which allows separation of the bottom plate from the bottom chord when the bottom plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the roof truss rises relative to the interior partition wall.
2. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 1 wherein the means for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss comprises a plurality of connectors.
3. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 2 wherein the connectors are removable.
4. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 2 wherein the connectors are frangible.
5. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 1 wherein the means for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss comprises one or more connectors slidably attached to the bottom plate and the roof truss.
6. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 2 wherein the connectors are fasteners driven through the bottom plate into the bottom of the bottom chord.

7. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 2 wherein the connectors are gang plates.
8. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 2 wherein the connectors comprise a plurality of wood fasteners and hangers having a plurality of holes, wherein the wood fasteners are driven through the holes in the hangers into the bottom plate, the bottom chord or both.
9. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 8 wherein the hangers are frangible.
10. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 9 wherein the hangers have a perforation disposed in such a way that if the hanger is severed at the perforation, the hanger and fasteners will no longer act to attach the bottom plate to the bottom chord.
11. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 8 wherein the hangers are slidably attached to the bottom plate and the bottom chord.
12. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 11 wherein the holes are vertically slotted holes.
13. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 8 wherein the hangers are H-shaped hangers.
14. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 8 wherein the hangers are U-shaped hangers.
15. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 8 wherein the hangers are wrap-around hangers.

16. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 8 wherein the hangers are metal.

17. (Amended) An improved roof truss, comprising:

(a) a bottom chord;

(b) a bottom plate disposed underneath and substantially parallel to the bottom chord;

(c) means for attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord; and

(d) spacers disposed between the bottom plate and the bottom chord which create a thermal gap between the bottom plate and the bottom chord.

18. (Amended) ~~The improved roof truss of claim 17 further comprising An improved roof truss, comprising:~~

(a) a bottom chord;

(b) a bottom plate disposed underneath and substantially parallel to the bottom chord;

(c) means for attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord; and

(d) spacers disposed between the bottom plate and the bottom chord which create a thermal gap between the bottom plate and the bottom chord;

(e) a bracket positioned between the bottom plate and the bottom chord, located at the intersection of the bottom plate and an interior partition wall, having a horizontal planar member on the top of the bottom plate attached to vertical planar members on either side of the bottom plate which are

attached to horizontal planar members extending away from the bottom plate along the top surface of the interior partition wall, wherein fasteners can be driven through the horizontal planar members extending away from the bottom plate along the top surface of the interior partition wall so as to attach the bottom plate to the interior partition wall.

19. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 18 wherein the bracket is metal.
20. (Amended) The improved roof truss of claim 17 further comprising a strap, located at the intersection of the bottom plate and an interior partition wall, said strap passing between the bottom plate and the bottom chord, wherein said strap may be fastened to the interior partition wall wherein fasteners can be driven through the planar member on either side of the bottom plate so as to attach the bottom plate to the interior partition wall.
21. (Original) The improved roof truss of claim 20 wherein the strap is metal.